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MEDIA RELEASE

LEGAL AID SA AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN ILLEGAL EVICTIONS

Legal Aid South Africa (Legal Aid SA) is constitutionally mandated to protect and defend human rights in order to ensure justice for all members of society. Section 26 of the Constitution details the right to housing, stating that “*No one may be evicted from their home, or have their home demolished, without an order of court made after considering all the relevant circumstances. No legislation may permit arbitrary evictions*”. An eviction is only legal when a court order has been issued by the court.

During this time of the COVID-19 Lockdown, court orders can be obtained, but executing the order – actually evicting a person – is prohibited under current Lockdown regulations. The recent eviction of a Cape Town resident, which was filmed and widely circulated, has once again highlighted how many people are unlawfully evicted and struggle to receive legal assistance. Legal Aid SA is available to assist members of the public and communities whose rights are being ignored. The organisation is independent and protects and defends human rights, without fear or favour.

If you, or someone you know, is facing an illegal eviction, or has been illegally evicted, please call the toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line on **0800 110 110**, or send a Please Call Me to **079 835 7179**. You can also call your nearest Legal Aid SA office for assistance. The organisation has 128 offices around the country – all contact details are available on its website: www.legal-aid.co.za You can also reach out to Legal Aid SA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram **@LegalAidSA1**

– Ends –

Issued by the Communications Department of Legal Aid South Africa.

For more information, please contact Legal Aid South Africa Communications Executive and National Spokesperson Mr Mfanafuthi Shabangu on 011 877 2056/066 301 6935 or the Northern Cape/Western Cape Provincial Executive Ms Noliitha Jali on 021 861 3000/071 689 3705

Visit our website at www.legal-aid.co.za or call the Legal Aid Advice Line on 0800 110 110 or send a Please Call Me to 079 835 7179

Please be reminded that the name of our organisation **Legal Aid South Africa** is correctly abbreviated as **Legal Aid SA** and not as LASA. We respectfully request that you use the correct abbreviation **Legal Aid SA** which is representative of our mission to deliver quality **legal aid** services to the poor and vulnerable in South Africa.